GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2858
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
FOREST AREA IN ANDHRA PRADESH
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the forest cover in Andhra Pradesh has gone up during the last three years;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria adopted to categorize a forest as dense or moderately dense or open forest?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S.REGUPATHY)

(a)&(b) The forest cover assessment of country is carried out by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) using remote sensing technology once every two years and the findings are published in 'State of Forest Report' (SFR). The last such report released is SFR 2005, and therefore the trends of forest cover for the last three years are not yet available. However the forest cover data as per SFR 2005 and its comparison with SFR 2003 data with respect to Andhra Pradesh is given below:

Forest Cover details for Andhra Pradesh:

Details	State of Forest Report			
2003	2005	Change from 2003 to 2005		
Area (km2)	% of geographical area	Area (km2)	% of geographical area	Area (km2)
Forest Cover				
Very Dense	130	16.15	130	16.13	0
Moderately Dense	24,221		24,199		-22
Open Forest	20,061		20,043		-18
Total	44,412		44,372		-40

(c) The criteria adopted for categorising of forest cover in SFR is as follows:

Classification scheme of forest cover mapping:

Category	Description
Very Dense Forest	All lands having tree cover with canopy density more than 70%
Moderately Dense Forest	All lands having tree cover with canopy density between 40% and 70%
Open Forest	All lands having tree cover with canopy density between 10% and 40%